--5. (Twice Amended) A method for a VPN server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group; and

metering packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the packets belonging to the application group contend equally for the portion of the bandwidth.--

--8. (Twice Amended) A method for a VPN server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group;

metering packets belonging to the application group; and

allowing a user to specify the bandwidth of the remote link from a user interface.--

--9. (Twice Amended) A method for a VPN server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group;

metering packets belonging to the application group; and

allowing a user to specify the portion of the assigned bandwidth from a user interface.--

--12. (Twice Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

a VPN server

a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

a meter for metering the packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the server is directly connected to other links having larger bandwidth than the

available bandwidth of the remote link.--

--14. (Twice Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

a VPN server

a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

a meter for metering the packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the packets belonging to the application group contend equally for the contention

pool.--

--17. (Twice Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

a VPN server

a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

a meter for metering the packets belonging to the application group; and

a user interface that allows a user to specify the bandwidth of the link.--

--18. (Twice Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

a VPN server

a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and